

In the Claims

1 (currently amended). A method for ~~the identification of a cell, or the detection of~~ detecting a product of cell metabolism, ~~cell and/or growth, and/or germination~~, wherein said method comprises ~~immobilising the cell on an antibody in a device also containing a sensor, and introducing a growth medium using an antibody to immobilize a cell in a device that also contains a sensor and a nutrient broth~~, wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor comprising an analyte-sensitive matrix having an optical transducing structure disposed throughout its volume, wherein the sensor is sensitive to a product of the ~~cell's~~ metabolism~~[[,]] and/or growth, and/or germination of the cell, wherein the product is a biodegradative enzyme, causes a change in pH and/or causes a change in concentration of calcium ions; and wherein said method further comprises~~ detecting any change in an optical characteristic of the sensor.

2 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell is immobilised on an antibody that is attached to a magnetic particle.

3 (cancelled).

4 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 4, wherein the bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Bacillus globigii*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Salmonella* spp., *E.coli* spp., *Listeria* spp., *Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Campylobacter* spp.

6-14 (canceled).

15 (new). A method for detecting the germination of a spore, wherein said method comprises using an antibody to immobilize a spore in a device that also contains a sensor and a nutrient broth, wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor comprising an analyte-sensitive matrix having an optical transducing structure disposed throughout its volume, wherein the sensor is sensitive to a product resulting from the germination of the spore; and wherein said method further comprises detecting any change in an optical characteristic of the sensor.